

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.
17306/101

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **APPARATUS FOR RELEASING ITEMS WITHIN A CONFINED SPACE**, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to us to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/484,340
filed January 18, 2000

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/008,685
filed January 16, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,056,341

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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